

VZCZCXRO7324
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DE RUEHNO #0161/01 1131304
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 231304Z APR 09
FM USMISSION USNATO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2897
INFO RUEHZG/NATO EU COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ALMATY IMMEDIATE 5318
RUEHAH/AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT IMMEDIATE 4813
RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ASTANA IMMEDIATE
RUEHEK/AMEMBASSY BISHKEK IMMEDIATE 4801
RUEHDBU/AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE IMMEDIATE 0009
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE 1192
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE 6332
RUEHNT/AMEMBASSY TASHKENT IMMEDIATE 0015
RUEHNA/DEA HQS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RHMFISS/HQ USEUCOM VAHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE
RUEABND/DEA TRAINING QUANTICO VA IMMEDIATE
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RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USNATO 000161

SIPDIS

DEA FOR JAMES FARNSWORTH

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/23/2019

TAGS: [NATO PREL MOPS GG RS](#)

SUBJECT: LEAHY VETTING FOR NATO-RUSSIA COUNTER-NARCOTICS
TRAINING

REF: A. USNATO 99

[1](#)B. SECSTATE 25877

Classified By: Ambassador Kurt Volker for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (U) This is an action request. See paragraph 3.

[1](#)2. (C) SUMMARY: While Mission continues to support the NATO-Russia Council (NRC) counter-narcotics (CN) project, technical and logistical problems have prevented us from carrying out all required Leahy vetting. Already twice this year, UNODC - which serves as the executive authority for this project - failed to provide us the names of trainees in time for Leahy vetting to take place. After trying several times to resolve the issue, we have come to the conclusion that such lapses will only continue. We have therefore come to the conclusion that we must pull State/INL funds (USD 100,000) from the project's central budget. To mitigate the preception that the U.S. is pulling out for political reasons we should offer additional DEA sponsored training. End summary.

[1](#)3. (C) ACTION REQUEST: Post requests front-channel interagency authorization to ask that U.S. funds be withdrawn from the budget of the NRC Counter Narcotics project. At the same time, we also request that Washington authorize us to announce an increase in DEA-CN training.

BACKGROUND

[1](#)4. (C) Turkey began a two-week NATO-Russia Council CN training of Afghan CN officers on April 20, but UNODC, the project administrator, has yet to provide names of the trainees to NRC member for vetting purposes. Last minute vetting has been a hallmark of this project since inception, and USNATO sincerely thanks Embassies in Afghanistan and Central Asia for their willingness to try to quickly turn-around vetting requests over the past two years.

UNODC's performance in providing us the names, however, is getting worse; this is the second time in 2009 that UNODC failed to provide the names of trainees in time to do Leahy vetting (reftels). Mission finds this unacceptable. For two years, we have repeatedly demarched the UNODC on the need to improve their vetting procedures. Last year, we even suggested mandatory cancellation of any training courses when the names were not provided to NRC members two weeks in advance. This initiative was blocked by Turkey and Russia, who did not want to block training they were providing based on U.S. vetting requirements.

15. C) At this point, Mission sees no alternative but to pull out INL funding (100,000 USD) from the NRC project budget. Some Allies - and Russia - may interpret this as evidence of wavering U.S. commitment to the project, but we could off-set this by simultaneously agreeing to send DEA to lead additional training and re-programming the INL funding for this purpose. DEA has agreed to participate in 2 of the 18 NRC training courses; Turkey and Russia conduct the other NRC courses (with NRC financing). This solution would eliminate the need for U.S. vetting of NRC training which lacks U.S. participation or funding. We would continue to do Leahy vetting only for the training with DEA participation as required by Congressional mandate. By focusing only on those courses where we actually participate, we can take a decision to cancel training when appropriate Leahy vetting is not done - without blocking the ability of other NRC nations to provide training based on their legal standards.

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16. (C) COMMENT: USNATO realizes that pulling funding from the NRC budget is less than an ideal solution; pulling U.S. funding would exacerbate the current 200,000 USD short-fall in the central NRC CN project budget (800,000 USD total project budget). Without additional funding, UNODC may be forced to cancel training in Turkey or Russia. Therefore, Post is open to other creative solutions to resolve this issue. End comment.
VOLKER